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ALPHABETS

A MANUAL OF LETTER DESIGN,
WITH COMPLETE ALPHABETS OF
VARIED STYLES OF LETTERING

BY

DOUGLAS C. McMURTRIE

Editor of Ars Typographica



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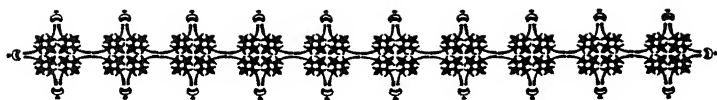
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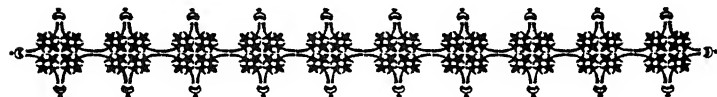
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ALPHABETS



LETTERING may be classified in two main divisions: Gothic and Roman. With the former Anglo-Saxons are not much concerned as its present-day use is largely restricted to Germany. The only example shown in the present volume is on pages 58 and 59 and is generally — though incorrectly — known as Old English.

The Roman alphabet is by far the more legible and it has been adopted as the standard in practically all civilized countries throughout the world. The form in which we use it was largely determined by the stone-cut capitals in ancient Roman architecture and the handwriting of the humanistic scribes in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

Letter shapes have been so fixed by tradition that they can vary but slightly and still remain

legible. Eccentric departures from standard form and the addition of unnecessary features is unsound practice. Within limits of the traditional forms there is possible, however, endless variation in comparative weights of the thick and thin strokes, in the general blackness of the whole alphabet, in the form of the serifs, and so forth. This will be clearly demonstrated in the following pages.

A variety of the Roman alphabet is the italic or slanting form. This is always quite similar in style to the upright alphabet it is designed to accompany.

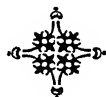
Variety in lettering can be obtained by drawing alphabets in outline or giving them perspective by the introduction of a white line in the heavy strokes of the letters. This white space may be left white or grayed by five parallel strokes or cross-hatching.

A more or less special form of alphabet is script—an imitation of actual handwriting of more or less elegant character. Two of the best forms of script are shown on pages 60-61 and 62-63.

The order in which the specimen alphabets are arranged is (1) Roman alphabets of nor-

mal weight with corresponding italics, (2) Roman alphabets of heavy weight, some with italics, (3) Outline or shaded alphabets, (4) a Gothic alphabet, (5) two Script alphabets. The designation by which the design is known will be found at the bottom of each page.

This is intended, of course, as an elementary handbook only, but almost all the good forms of letter design are represented, and the specimen alphabets should prove useful models to students of lettering.



a b c d e f

g h i j k l

m n o p q r

s t u v w x

y z 1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9 o

A B C D E

F G H I J

K L M N

O P Q R S

T U V W

X Y Z & ? !

a b c d e f

g h i j k l

m n o p q r

s t u v w x

y z 1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9 0

A B C D E

F G H I J

K L M N

O P Q R S

T U V W

X Y Z & ? !

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A B C D E

F G H I J

K L M N

O P Q R S

T U V W X

Y Z & ? !

a b c d e f

g h i k l

m n o p q

r s t u v w

x y z 1 2 3

4 5 6 7 8 9 0

A B C D

E F G H I

J K L M N

O P Q R S

T U V W

X Y Z &

a b c d e f

g h i j k l

m n o p q r

s t u v w x

y z 1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9 o

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s t u v w x

y z 1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9 0

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T U V W

X Y Z & ? !

a b c d e f

g h i j k l

m n o p q r

s t u v w x

y z 1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9 0

A B C D E

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K L M N

O P Q R S

T U V W X

Y Z & ? !

a b c d e f

g h i j k l

m n o p q r

s t u v w x

y z 1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9 0

A B C D E

F G H I J

K L M N

O P Q R S

T U V W X

Y Z & ? !

a b c d e f

g h i j k l

m n o p q r

s t u v w x

y z 1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9 0

A B C D
E F G H
I J K L
M N O P
Q R S T
U V W X
Y Z & ? !

a b c d e f

g h i j k

l m n o p

q r s t u

v w x y z

1 2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9 0

A B C D
E F G H
I J K L
M N O P
Q R S T
U V W X
Y Z & ? !

a b c d e f

g h i j k l

m n o p q r

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T U V W X

Y Z & ? !

a b c d e f

g h i j k l

m n o p q r

s t u v w x

y z 1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9 0

A B C D E

F G H I J

K L M N

O P Q R S

T U V W X

Y Z & ? !

a b c d e f g

h i j k l m

n o p q r s

t u v w x

y z 1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9 0

A B C D E

F G H I J

K L M N O

P Q R S T

U V W X

Y Z & ? !

a b c d e f

g h i j k l

m n o p q r

s t u v w x

y z 1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9 0

A B C D E

F G H I J

K L M N

O P Q R S

T U V W X

Y Z & ? !

a b c d e f

g h i j k l

m n o p q

r s t u v

w x y z 1

2 3 4 5 6

7 8 9 0

A B C D
E F G H I
J K L M
N O P Q
R S T U
V W X Y
Z & ? !

a b c d e f

g h i j k l m

n o p q r s

t u v w x y

z 1 2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9 0

A B C D E

F G H I J

K L M N

O P Q R S

T U V W

X Y Z & ? !

a b c d e f

g h i j k l m

n o p q r s

t u v w x y

z 1 2 3 4 5

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A B C D E

F G H I J

K L M N

O P Q R S

T U V W

X Y Z & ? !

A B C D E
F G H I J
K L M N O
P Q R S T U
V W X Y Z

A B C D E F
G H I J K L
M N O P Q
R S T U V W
X Y Z & ? !

A B C D E

F G H I J

K L M N O

P Q R S T U

V W X Y Z

1 2 3 4 5 6

7 8 9 0 ? !

a b c d e f

g h i j k l

m n o p q r

s t u v w x

y z 1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9 0

A B C D E

F G H I J

K L M N

O P Q R S

T U V W

X Y Z & ? !

a b c d e f

g h i j k l

m n o p q

r s t u v w

x y z 1 2 3

4 5 6 7 8 9 0

A B C D E

F G H I J

K L M N

O P Q R S

T U V W X

Y Z & ? !

a b c d e f

g h i j k l

m n o p q

r s t u v w

x y z I 2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9 0

A B C D
E F G H
I J K L
M N O P
Q R S T
U V W X
Y Z & ? !

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